

James H. Law Elementary School *T.E. A. Recognized 2008*



OWL EXPRESS

12401 S. Coast Dr., Houston, TX 77047

Office (713) 732-3630 Fax (713) 732-3633

Math, Science & Technology Magnet Programs

Calendar of Events

March 2 – 6

Read Across America Week

March 2,

Celebrate **Dr. Seuss's** Birthday
Pre K – 1st grade
Special visitor
“The Cat in the Hat”

March 3

TAKS Tests

National Anthem Day

March 12

Name That Book Contest

March 16 – 20

Spring Break

March 23

Return to school.

TRAFFIC SAFETY ISSUES

- *Follow the Speed Limit in the school zone
- *Lower your car stereos in the school zone
- *Do not get out of your car and leave your car parked in the middle of the street to stop the flow of traffic
- *Please move cautiously through the school zone and do not stop the flow of traffic.

Principal's Note

Dear Parents,

This information serves as a reminder of the Law Elementary School Dress Code. During the past few weeks we have had numerous violations regarding our dress code. The dress code is mandated for student safety and to create a positive learning environment. Our dress code requires students to wear navy or khaki pants, shorts or skirts, and white, navy or yellow polo shirts or Law spirit shirts. Students are required to wear belts at all times with shirts tucked in. Students need to wear tennis shoes or other closed toed shoes with socks. Shoelaces need to be tied and velcro straps need to be fastened. Heelys or other skate type shoes are not allowed.

On Fridays, students are allowed to wear blue jeans, blue jean shorts or denim skirts with a polo or spirit shirt. Jeans and shorts must not be baggy or have inappropriate logos. Denim skirts need to be the appropriate length. Belts must be worn.

Students will also be allowed to dress up on the designated day of their Award's Ceremony. Again, students are expected to dress in a manner that is appropriate for a learning environment.

Students have been given numerous reminders about the dress code policy at Law Elementary. We do not have the resources to supply students with extra clothing when they are not in uniform. If your child is out of uniform, you will be called to bring a change of clothing.

I appreciate your assistance in making sure your child is dressed appropriately for school each day. We want school to be a healthy, positive place for learning. Please feel free to contact me at 713-732-3630 if you have any concerns.

Thank you,
Hannah Mose Harvey
Principal

Testing Dates

**TAKS
3rd Grade**

- ❖ Reading/March 3rd
- ❖ Math/April 28th
- ❖ Reading Retest/April 29th.

4th Grade

- ❖ Writing/March 3rd
- ❖ Reading/April 29th
- ❖ Math/April 28th

5th Grade

- ❖ Reading/March 3rd
- ❖ Math/April 7th
- ❖ Reading Retest/April 29th
- ❖ Science/April 30th
- ❖ Math Retest/May 19th



After school tutorials

Tutorials will be held for 3rd, 4th and 5th grades. Mondays – Wednesdays **ONLY**

3:00 P. M– 4:30 P. M.

* Students must wear their school uniform daily.

*Spirit tee-shirt may be worn on Fridays. Note: Uniform colors are navy blue and khaki bottoms, and navy blue, white, or yellow shirts.

*Breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Law Elementary serves breakfast every morning from 7:00 to 7:30 a.m. Please make sure your children arrive on time in order to receive breakfast.

*State law requires that all school age children must attend school daily. If a student has more than 8 unexcused absences for the school year that child does not meet promotion standards.

*For safety reasons, students are **NOT** allowed to be dropped off or picked up in the teachers’ parking lot.

Grade Level News

Fourth Grade

Some fourth graders had their stories published in the **Youth Scoop** section of the **Green Sheet** on February 19th (page 10).

The stories were titled “**My Miracle Cure.**” Some of the students did drawings.

Some students did a definition of the word “**sick**”.

Ms. McCowan’s Class



These students’ drawings were published.

Ariel Davis* *Kelcye Dornes* *Tatiyana Poydras

These students’ stories entitled **My Miracle Cure** were published.

Jeremy Singleton* *Taylor Jackson* *Jeffrey Rodriguez

Kevrin Flood wrote a story about her school.

These students were featured in the section where they had to define the word “**sick**”.

Joe Vann* *Diamond Cartha* *Kayla Crayton-Jackson



Ms. Sumbry’s Class



These students’ drawings were published.

Chima Ozz* *Chloe Nguyen* *Karla Euseda* *Tyler Rose

Michelle Phung

These students’ stories entitled “**My Miracle Cure**” were published.

Tevon Conway* *Sa’viahn Carmouche* *Kassidy Woodard

These students were featured in the section where they had to define the word “**sick**”.

Alana Pete* *Brianna Garza* *Paula Romo* *Esaias Grant

Alejandra Camarillo* *Kayla Frank



Ms. Brigham’s Class



These students were featured in the section where they had to define the word “**sick**”.

Daetra Maxie* *Elana Brown* *Brianna Moore* *Kahyla Dismuke



<http://www.greensheetyouthscoop.com/>

NEA's Read Across America

Reader's Oath

I promise to read
Each day and each night.
I know it's the key
To growing up right.

I'll read to myself,
I'll read to a crowd.
It makes no difference
If silent or loud.

I'll read at my desk,
At home and at school,
On my bean bag or bed,
By the fire or pool.

Each book that I read
Puts smarts in my head,
'Cause brains grow more
thoughts
The more they are fed.

So I take this oath
To make reading my way
Of feeding my brain
What it needs every day.

Words by Debra Angstead
*Missouri-National
Education Association*



www.nea.org/readacross



Fifth Grade Math Contest

The 5th Grade Math contest took place on Saturday, February 21, 2009 at Harmony Science Academy. This was a great opportunity for our students to compete with one hundred forty-seven 5th grades including students from charter schools and HISD. The parents provided their child the necessary support in order for them to participate. Law had seven out of seventeen students who believed in themselves and their ability to perform successfully.

1. Lonzy Cooper	5. Jonathan Hollis
2. Moriyah Jones	6. Analy Carrion
3. Caleb Black	7. David Young
4. Deldridge Paynes	

Thank you Ms. Flowers for identifying and providing our students an opportunity to compete throughout the city of Houston. This competition allows our students to be exposed to many educational opportunities.



Technology TAKS Released Tests



Online TAKS Released Tests are available for third, fourth, and fifth grade students. Links to these tests are on Law's Website <http://es.houstonisd.org/lawES/>.

When you enter the site, click the "**Students**" tab. Parents can work through the test items with their child/children. You may also score the test to get an idea of how your child may do on the **real** test. This is a great opportunity to help your child/children prepare for and **PASS** the **TAKS**.

Library

Read Across America Week is March 2 – 6. This is the celebration of Dr. Seuss' birthday on March 2/ In honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday students will be doing many fun activities in the Library, such as:

- Reading their favorite Dr. Seuss book
- Crafts
- Singing "We Love You Dr. Seuss"
- Title Scramble contest
- Coloring Contest
- Appearance of the "Cat In The Hat (Pre-K – 1st)"

Name That Book club will be competing on March 12.



Art and Drama Congratulations! Taliyah Perry and Ausheuia Flakes

Taliyah is a student in Dr. Sorapuru's first grade class. Her artwork from the 'Commitment to Community' coloring contest was selected as one of this year's winners in the Houston Livestock and Rodeo's Western heritage Community Challenge. She received tickets to the Livestock Show.

Ausheuia from Ms. McCaskell's Kindergarten class gave a big "Howdy" and "Welcome" to the Rodeo Speaker Committee, Dr. Ervin; South Region Superintendent and his guest.

Parent Test-Support Strategies

Testing Day

- See that your child is rested and eats breakfast.
- See that your child arrives at school on time and is relaxed.
- Encourage your child to do the best work possible.
- Do not send your child to school if illness is apparent.
- Do not remove your child from school on test days for appointments.

Test Anxiety

Students may experience anxiety about tests and may experience heightened anxiety before a testing situation. A certain degree of test anxiety is normal and may help students prepare more effectively, work more efficiently, and remain focused during testing. Too much anxiety, however, can negatively affect performance.

The following strategies may assist in reducing test anxiety:

- Discuss the test openly and in a positive way.
- Have realistic expectations of your child's performance while encouraging his/her best efforts.
- Emphasize that the test is only one measure of academic performance.
- Emphasize that test scores do not determine a person's worth.

James H. Law Literacy & Title I News Helping Hands Working Together for Student Success The Literacy Corner

James H. Law ES Reads

Getting Meaning Out of What We Read is One of the Secrets for School Success!

Ask education leaders about the skills students need for school success, and the first one most will mention is reading. We all want children to love reading. Studies show that being read to and having lots of reading materials around while children are growing up helps them in more ways than we can ever know.

Being surrounded by words will help make you child more comfortable with language. It will help him/her learn that words have meaning. Words stimulate the brain. They are the building blocks needed for thinking and growing and learning through out life.

But, just learning to read is not enough to ensure school success. Your child must learn to find meaning in words. Only then can they put what they read to use, and not only get the most out of school, but out of life itself!

Vocabulary

Vocabulary refers to the words we must know to communicate effectively. **Oral vocabulary** refers to words that we use in speaking or recognize in listening. **Reading vocabulary** refers to words we recognize or use in print.

Vocabulary plays an important part in learning to read. Beginning readers use the words they have heard to make sense of the words they see in print. They have a much more difficult time reading words that are not already a part of their oral vocabulary.

Vocabulary is also very important to reading comprehension. Readers cannot understand what they are reading without knowing what most of the words mean. As children learn to read more advanced texts, they must learn the meaning of new words that are not a part of their oral vocabulary.

Vocabulary can be developed **indirectly**, when students engage daily in oral language, listen to adults read to them, and read on their own. It can also be developed **directly**, when students are explicitly taught both individual words and word learning strategies.

Students' Test-Taking Strategies

During Tests

- Read and pay careful attention to all directions.
- Read each passage and accompanying questions.
- Read every possible answer – the best one could be last.
- Read and respond to items one at a time rather than thinking about the whole test.
- Reread, when necessary, the parts of a passage needed for selecting the correct answer.
- Don't expect to find a pattern in the positions of the correct answers.
- Don't make uneducated guesses. Try to get the correct answer by reasoning and eliminating wrong answers.
- Decide exactly what the question is asking; one response is clearly best.
- Don't spend too much time on any one question.
- Skip difficult questions until all other questions have been answered. On scrap paper, keep a record of the unanswered items to return to, if time permits.
- Make sure to record the answer in the correct place on the answer sheet.
- Only change the answer if you are sure the first one you picked was wrong. Be sure to completely erase changed answers.
- Work as rapidly as possibly, with accuracy.
- After completion of the test, use any remaining time to check your answers.
- Keep a good attitude. Think positively!

Parents / Guardians thank you for your commitment and continued support in the academic lives of our students. Your involvement truly makes a difference.

Sincerely,

Mrs. H. Moore-Smith

Literacy Coach